

Contact: Tom Cook 406-444-1645 Release: Receipt

‘BORDER TO BORDER’ A TREASURE FOR MONTANA QUILTERS

An art that requires determination, hard work, and an innate sense of beauty is celebrated in a new book that warms both the heart and the soul.

The Montana Historical Society Press has just released “Border to Border: Historic Quilts and Quiltmakers of Montana” by Annie Hanshew with an introduction by Montana State University History Professor Mary Murphy.

The coffee-table-size book contains hundreds of color photographs of historic Montana quilts and historic photographs of the people who made them.

The quilts and the fascinating stories behind them are broken into chapters that fit them into the history of the state. From Montana Territory, to statehood and settlement, to the hard times of the Great Depression, to modern Montana, to the quilting revival under way today,

Hanshew delves into the history and the fabric of what she calls “snapshots” of births, deaths, transformation, weddings and daily life contained in quilts.

“They are stories writ small, stories that don’t make their way into history books but are stitched into the seams of Dresden Plate, Grandmother’s Flower Garden, and crazy quilts,” she writes in the book.

Most of the quilts and their histories are part of the Montana Historic Quilt Project. The Society Archives has worked with quilt guilds and individual quilters across the state since 1987 to gather information on, and photograph hundreds of Montana quilts.

The new book has been praised by quilters across the country including Janet Catherine Berlo, one of the nation's foremost quilt experts and author of "Wild by Design: Two Hundred Years of Innovation and Artistry in American Quilts."

"Border to Border deftly and seamlessly stitches together the specifics of Montana's history and the diversity of its women's artistry. Lavishly illustrated and beautifully written, this book is a 'must own,'" Berlo said.

The 224-page hardcover book contains more than 300 photos, many of them full-page and in color. It is available at book stores and quilt shops across the state for \$34.95, or can be ordered directly from the Society by calling toll-free 1-800-243-9900.